

Atty. Dkt. No.: 60,680-651
Dana Ref. No.: 6976 CVDA
Express Mail No.: ER356748645US

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A vehicle suspension, comprising:

a beam having first and second spaced side walls and a lateral wall extending between said first and second side walls, said first and second side walls defining first and second recesses proximate first and second ends, respectively, of said beam;

wherein said first and second recesses receive first and second axles of a vehicle and said beam is pivotally coupled to a frame of said vehicle at a location intermediate of said first and second axles.

2. The suspension of claim 1 wherein said beam is rigidly attached to said first and second axles.

3. The suspension of claim 1 further comprising first and second springs positioned between said frame of said vehicle and said beam.

4. The suspension of claim 3 wherein at least portions of said first and second springs are disposed above said first and second axles respectively.

5. The suspension of claim 4 wherein said first spring is centered along a longitudinal axis of said first axle and said second spring is centered along a longitudinal axis of said second axle.

6. The suspension of claim 1 further comprising first and second shock absorbers coupled at first ends to said first and second ends of said beam, respectively, and at second ends to said frame.

Atty. Dkt. No.: 60,680-651
Dana Ref. No.: 6976 CVDA
Express Mail No.: ER356748645US

7. The suspension of claim 6 wherein said second end of said first shock absorber is forward of said first end of said first shock absorber and said second end of said second shock absorber is rearward of said first end of said second shock absorber.

8. The suspension of claim 1 wherein said first and second spaced side walls are widest at said location and taper moving from said location to said first end of said beam and from said location to said second end of said beam.

9. The suspension of claim 1, further comprising:
a bushing having a central aperture and first and second diametrically opposed voids, said bushing disposed within an aperture in said beam and said beam coupled to said frame of said vehicle at said location by a fastener extending through said central aperture of said bushing.

10. A vehicle suspension, comprising:
a beam having first and second spaced side walls and a lateral wall extending between said first and second side walls, said first and second side walls defining first and second recesses proximate first and second ends, respectively, of said beam;
first and second springs positioned between a frame of said vehicle and said beam
wherein said first and second recesses receive first and second axles of a vehicle and said beam is rigidly attached to said first and second axles and pivotally coupled to said frame of said vehicle at a location intermediate of said first and second axles.

11. The suspension of claim 10 wherein at least portions of said first and second springs are disposed above said first and second axles respectively.

Atty. Dkt. No.: 60,680-651
Dana Ref. No.: 6976 CVDA
Express Mail No.: ER356748645US

12. The suspension of claim 11 wherein said first spring is centered along a longitudinal axis of said first axle and said second spring is centered along a longitudinal axis of said second axle.

13. The suspension of claim 10 further comprising first and second shock absorbers coupled at first ends to said first and second ends of said beam, respectively, and at second ends to said frame.

14. The suspension of claim 13 wherein said second end of said first shock absorber is forward of said first end of said first shock absorber and said second end of said second shock absorber is rearward of said first end of said second shock absorber.

15. The suspension of claim 10 wherein said first and second spaced side walls are widest at said location and taper moving from said location to said first end of said beam and from said location to said second end of said beam.

16. The suspension of claim 10, further comprising:
a bushing having a central aperture and first and second diametrically opposed voids, said bushing disposed within an aperture in said beam and said beam coupled to said frame of said vehicle at said location by a fastener extending through said central aperture of said bushing.

17. A vehicle suspension, comprising:
a beam having an aperture extending therethrough;
a bushing having a central aperture and first and second diametrically opposed voids, said bushing disposed within said aperture in said beam;
wherein said beam is coupled to first and second axles of a vehicle and is coupled to a frame of said vehicle at a location intermediate said first and second axles by a fastener extending through said central aperture of said bushing.

Atty. Dkt. No.: 60,680-651
Dana Ref. No.:6976 CVDA
Express Mail No.: ER356748645US

18. The suspension of claim 17 wherein said first and second diametrically opposed voids are located above and below said central aperture on an axis extending radially from said central aperture, perpendicular to a road surface.

19. The suspension of claim 18 wherein said first and second diametrically opposed voids are of an arcuate shape.